

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SCA-01 EB-11 FAA-00 CAB-09 L-03

H-03 INR-10 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /063 W

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R 081400Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1804

INFO AMCONSUL AMSTERDAM

AMCONSUL ANTWERP

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL ROTTERDAM

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 3484

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, NL

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: POST MORTEM ON AMERICAN TRAVELERS STRANDED AT
AMSTERDAM

REF: HAGUE 3418 (NOTAL)

1. IN REVIEW OF INCIDENT UNDER REFERENCE, SEVERAL OBSERVATIONS
OF GENERAL INTEREST MAY BE MADE:

2. OUR CONTACT WITH PAA ON QUESTION AT HAND CONFIRMED THAT
SCHEDULED CARRIERS BASICALLY HAVE NO INTEREST IN BAILING OUT
PASSENGERS WHO SEEK LOW-COST CHARTER TRANSPORTATION AND GET
CAUGHT WHEN PURCHASED TRAVEL IS FOUND TO BE ILLEGAL.

3. CIVILAIR (VAN GROOTEL) STATED THAT DURING HIS DAY AT AIRPORT
WITH GROUP IN QUESTION (AUGUST 3) HE FOUND OUT THAT (1) AT LEAST
ONE PASSENGER KNEW AHEAD OF TIME THAT SHE WAS DEALING WITH
SHADY TRAVEL AGENT AND THAT FLIGHT WAS PROBABLY ILLEGAL, AND
(2) SEVERAL PASSENGERS IN SUBJECT GROUP WERE INVOLVED LAST YEAR IN
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ILLEGAL CHARTERS IN WHICH THEY WERE STRANDED FOR A PERIOD OF TIME.

VAN GROOTEL CONCLUDED THAT MANY TRAVELERS WILL CONTINUE TO USE THIS METHOD OF TICKETING AS LONG AS THERE IS FAIR CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

4. CIVILAIR OBSERVES THAT BEST IMMEDIATE SOLUTION FOR ANY STRANDING PROBLEM IS TO FOCUS GROUP PRESSURE ON TRAVEL AGENTS INVOLVED TO REFUND ENTIRE COST. (THIS OCCURRED IN SUBJECT CASE). CIVILAIR IS ACTIVELY PREPARING LEGISLATION TO CONTROL TRAVEL AGENCY ACTIVITIES AND HOPES FOR PASSAGE THIS YEAR. ACCORDING TO THEIR PRESENT THINKING, WHEN CHARTER OR TICKET IS FOUND ILLEGAL, TRAVEL AGENCY INVOLVED MUST BE FORCED TO SUPPLY TICKETS ON NORMAL SCHEDULED FLIGHTS FOR PASSENGERS TO WHOM THEY HAVE SOLD TRANSPORTATION. THIS WOULD DIRECTLY DISCOURAGE SALE OF ILLEGAL TICKETS.

5. CIVILAIR STATES THAT SERIES OF CHARTER PASSENGER DIFFICULTIES HAS BEGUN EARLIER THAN LAST YEAR BOTH HERE AND IN LONDON, POSSIBLY AS RESULT OF EXCHANGE DIFFICULTIES WITH AMERICAN TOURISTS RUNNING OUT OF FUNDS EARLIER THAN USUAL. THERE IS SAID TO BE MUCH SHOPPING AROUND ALREADY FOR LOW-COST CHARTERS. AUTHORITIES HERE FORESEE

WARM PERIOD OF CHARTER PROBLEMS AND STRANDINGS OVER NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS.
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